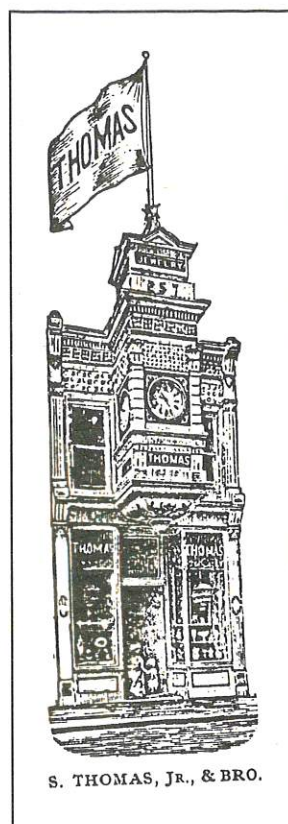


257 1930 Strand Millinery Co. 1920 Metz Jewelry Co. 1900 to 1910 Stephen Thomas & Bro. This early jewelry store which had the famous projecting clock tower, **Stephen Thomas & Bros.**, was very proud of being watch inspectors for the Southern, Georgetown & Western Railroad and the Consolidated Railway. In the early part of the century, everything was expected to run on time, and usually did. Railroad time was considered the most accurate of all. The company had a large watch and jewelry repair business as well as sales of watches, jewelry, silver and silver-plate, bronzes, clocks, spectacles and eye glasses. Upstairs, in the workshop area, apparatus and tools for the employed artisans included furnaces, rolling mills, and all of the latest devices. The firm had two watchmakers, one of them a man distinguished in his business, **F. Summer**, a German who built the two "regulators" in this establishment, one running twelve, and the other running three months. **Stephen Thomas** had been in the jewelry trade for many years before starting his own store in 1881, having worked before the Civil War with the famous firm of Hayden Brothers & Co.

258 1999 Garden Botanika body care 1990 The Great South Gate antiques 1930 thru 1970 Snelgrove's This small family owned ladies clothing store, **Snelgrove's** was founded by **Sidney Snelgrove** and his mother. The old lady was always ensconced on a chair in the front of the store, regally dressed and holding a cane, to see that Sidney took care of all customers properly. She was definitely the matriarch of the establishment. The store advertised "advanced styles in sports hats, frocks, coats and suits and was well known as one of the "better-dress shops" on King Street. It included the **French Hat Shop** when it opened, since millinery for ladies was still in fashion. 1920 The French Hat Shop / T. F. McGarey 1900 thru 1910 Miss M.A. Cade millinery



KING STREET

259 1999 Footlocker shoe store 1910 thru 1990 F.W. Woolworth & Co. When **Woolworth's** closed in 1997 after 95 years on King Street, it was a sure sign of a change in the way of doing business in that part of town and in the nation. The closing stemmed from the national Woolworth Corp.'s decision to exit the general merchandise business. The Charleston downtown Woolworths was one of two in the state to escape earlier closings throughout the country. The store opened at this address in 1902 by buying out F.M. Kirby & Co. and remained a popular merchandise center throughout the century. It was what was known as a five-and ten-cent store, though it carried merchandise that exceeded those price limits. A favorite spot was the long lunch counter that ran from one King Street entrance almost half way back to the rear of the store. It's five-vegetable plate for under \$4 and its variety of hamburgers, fried chicken, onion rings and pies always tasted home-cooked and seats at the diner-type counter were hard to come by at lunch time. The store became a part of the local civil rights movement in 1960, when black students picketed the then segregated counter. One of the earliest downtown parking garages in the city was built right behind Woolworths, and the store kept its back door open so customers using the parking garage could walk straight through the store to King Street. This did not hurt business since one could seldom use this short-cut without finding some little thing that was needed at home or office. The store carried everything from hardware to baby diapers to window shades. Old Codgers still missed this store when the new century began. It was one of the most successful stores in the chain nationally. In addition to two branches on King Street during the century (see 463 and 483 King) there were smaller versions of the downtown Woolworth's at South Windemere and in Northwoods Mall. The closing of the 27,000 square-foot King Street store opened up one of the last sizable pieces of real estate in the heart of city's shopping district and left a hole in the heart of Charleston shoppers that could never be replaced by any other type emporium. 1900 F.M. Kirby & Co. five and ten cent store

260 1999 Abercrombie and Fitch 1990 vacant 1920 thru 1980 Kerrisons Department Store (see also 92 Hasell Street) One of the oldest establishments in its field in the South and one of the oldest in America, **Kerrison's** had been in business, mostly under absentee ownership, since 1803. With the sole ownership being in the hands of Mr. P.D. Kerrison, in 1896 the decision was made to close the store, which at that time was located on Hasell Street. **Edwin H. Poulnot** and his brother **Joseph Poulnot** wished to purchase the store, but were unable to raise the asking price (\$40,000) so they decided to form a stock company to acquire the well known company. The stock subscribers were for the most part Charlestonians with the exception of the seller himself who agreed to take 50 shares. **Miss Kate F. Cleary**, one of the first shareholders, became the first woman to be employed by the company. The president and controlling owner was Edwin Huger Poulnot. Edwin Poulnot acquired most of the stock over a period of time, and the company remained under the ownership of the Poulnot family until it closed in 1995 when **Edwin Poulnot III** (see 53 King) was owner. The King Street location closed in 1989 after the devastating hurricane Hugo of that year. It never re-opened after the storm. Almost all of the merchandise and equipment was destroyed and the store premises completely ruined. The store at that time was in an L-shape, the old Hasell Street store and entrance having been retained and joined to a large new four-story King Street building in 1920. Prior to World War I most apparel for women was either home-made or made by tailors. During the war many manufacturers produced uniforms for women in the military, or for women in volunteer organizations like the Red Cross. After the war they manufactured women's apparel for civilian use, something new on the retail market. Kerrisons became a leader in stocking these garments, known as "ready to wear" and established a reputation for forward styles. When downtown retailing began to decline in the 60s, Kerrisons decided to expand into the suburbs, building a store in the St. Andrews Center across the Ashley and opening



A busy King Street showing Woolworth's, Frierson Drug looking north from Hasell Street

a store in Northwoods Mall in the North area. In 1995 the decision was made to close all retail locations. The downtown store which had been vacant for some time was leased to Abercrombie and Fitch, a national chain and catalog store. The Kerrisons of the twentieth century is remembered for its many innovations. In 1909 automobile delivery trucks replaced the faithful horse and wagon. Downtown Kerrison's was one of the last of the retailers to maintain an operator-controlled elevator between the four floors. Old Codgers can recall the oft repeated question, "Floor, please?" The store, while keeping up with the latest fashion trends, continued to cater to its faithful "carriage trade" carrying among other things, long white kid gloves for debutantes and other ball-goers when no other store did. It's hosiery department was well known for its designer brand ladies stockings and its shoe department was prominent and in the later years occupied the entire Hasell Street wing. The cosmetics department for a long time occupied the entire center aisle inside of the King Street entrance offering only the best and most exclusive brands including Charles of the Ritz and Helena Rubinstein, and a fine array of the best perfumes. One could always test the fragrances by getting a free-squirt of a favorite aroma as one passed the perfume counter. Kerrisons also maintained their "floorwalker" system for quite some time. **Dr. Gordon Stine** recalls his father holding this position as his last real job. "He was [working with] the advertising and display. And he was what they call a floorwalker, you know. There were four stories there. He had two stories and another man had two floors." The floorwalker would move around his assigned territory, always impeccably dressed, to handle problems that arose and keep a sharp eye out for shop-lifters, assisting the sales clerks when any one department became rushed or needed help in handling a complaining or unruly customer. **1910 Follin Bros Co.** A producer of and dealer in cigars and tobacco, **Follin Bros.** manufactured the well-known "King Clay" and "Key West Cuban" cigars, two of the best known and most popular five cent cigars on the market. Their high-grade cigar, the "Garcia" was made in 10, 15 and 25 cent goods. In addition, the firm dealt in tobacco, cigarettes and smokers' articles and were sole sales agents for "Limited", "Red Meat" and "Half Shell" plug tobaccos. The owner was **J.E. Follin** and he kept two traveling men on the road selling his products through out South and North Carolina and part of Georgia. / **A. Shahid & Bro.** dry goods (see **491 King**) / **G.W. Cason**

261 1950 Miller's women's clothing **1920 thru 1940** Frierson Drug Co., Inc.. **1910** D. P. Frierson / Dr. J.T. Borden **1900** D.P. Frierson druggist From 1900 on **Frierson's Drug Store** was operated by members of the Frierson family, and remained for years the only drug store that was open 24 hours a day. It also maintained a directory of registered nurses during the early part of the century. It was moved in 1940 to the N.E. corner of Wentworth and Rutledge Avenue (see **162 Wentworth**) where it remained until the business closed. There was a group of men who every Tuesday night met to play cards with high stakes. Jim Altman, John Hornick, Charlie Gatlin, Julius Weil and a few others would always end up after the game at Frierson's. They arrived together and always left together and one of their friends questioned why they all left simultaneously. The answer was that if one left ahead of the rest of the group, the others would always have some demeaning chatter about this person, whether true or not. None of the group of buddies changed the tactics for years.